



Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · www.nass.usda.gov
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

RECORD WHEAT YIELDS; A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR TENNESSEE FARMERS

NASHVILLE, July 12, 2011 – Tennessee's wheat producers experienced a banner year in 2011 with yields averaging 70 bushels per acre. This record per acre yield surpassed the previous best set in 2006 of 64 bushels. Resulting production is estimated at 21.7 million bushels, over double the 2010 harvest. When combines rolled through the wheat fields recently, growers were greeted with surprising bonanza yields. Just one month earlier the outlook was for only an average crop as growers were concerned about the effects of the wet spring conditions. Growers attributed their achievement to successful disease control and excellent harvest weather. Tennessee farmers seeded a total of 390,000 acres last fall, up 50 percent from the previous year. Wheat producers harvested 310,000 acres for grain, 130,000 more than a year ago. The remaining acreage, 80,000, was utilized for hay, silage, or cover crop, or was lost due to adverse weather conditions.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT FROM JUNE

Winter wheat: Production is forecast at 1.49 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the June 1 forecast and up slightly from 2010. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.2 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last month but down 0.6 bushel from last year. Expected grain area totals 32.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2011 but up 2 percent from last year.

Drought conditions in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas throughout the growing season accelerated crop development. As of July 3, harvest progress was significantly ahead of normal and nearing completion in these States.

As of July 3, harvest progress in the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area was ahead of normal in all major States except Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, where progress was 2 to 11 points behind the 5-year average. While excellent growing conditions during the month in many of the SRW areas led to significant yield increases from the June forecast, wet conditions have negatively impacted the crop in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

Record high yields are expected in Arkansas, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., July 1, 2011 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	150	520	54.0	61.0	8,100	31,720
Georgia	125	180	40.0	55.0	5,000	9,900
Kentucky	250	410	66.0	70.0	16,500	28,700
Mississippi	100	300	47.0	64.0	4,700	19,200
Missouri	280	690	45.0	53.0	12,600	36,570
North Carolina	380	640	37.0	68.0	14,060	43,520
TENNESSEE	180	310	53.0	70.0	9,540	21,700
Virginia	160	260	51.0	70.0	8,160	18,200
United States	31,749	32,307	46.8	46.2	1,485,236	1,491,739

¹ 2011 forecast, 2010 final.